

cost of public school education with state dollars. Colorado is paying over 42%. Iowa, 39½%. Kansas, nearly 50% of the total cost of state...nearly 50% of the cost of schools is paid by state dollars. Minnesota is paying 57% and Missouri paying 38%. How much is Nebraska paying? Nebraska is at 19%. Remember those dollars will be spent next year. The question arises how do you want those same dollars collected? When property is already carrying from 60 to 62% of the total tax burden, do you want that burden to continue to climb or do you want to reverse the direction and have property tax still bring in dollars but not as many dollars and the other dollar collection come from those who are better equipped to balance, to move in the direction of trying to balance the areas from which the dollars are collected. I believe that each member of this legislative body will be in a position to make history, long lasting history, by the passage of LB 33 this year and the passage of LB 33A. I sincerely believe that this is the vehicle for this body to move in the direction of concern and care for the future generations for the State of Nebraska. It is our responsibility to be the watchdog. It is our responsibility to look more than a year in the future, have the vision to look five, ten, fifteen years ahead for the citizens of the State of Nebraska. Join us as we try to move LB 33 forward today.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President and colleagues, I rise to support LB 33. I think I will support it in a different way than I intended to last evening. I had done a comparison of distribution of state finances in regard to education and in regard to some total distribution of funds. I had taken a couple of districts, and I will be honest about it, Senator Lamb's, and I had called the Highway Department and found out how much had been spent on roads in each of his counties. I called several other areas to see where state money was going and I do have those figures available which we can look at if we want to look at who is receiving and who is giving and I think it is most revealing. But the real issue is that we have debated this bill for, oh, at least five years that I have been here. Two have passed, Senator Cullan, two have lost. They all have passed this body but two have made it through the entire process, and the struggle has been between those of us that certainly believe in equalization aid and those who believe in foundation aid. And that is just about a push. That just about evens it up. In fact, the first year I was here I decided I would be clever enough to put all the money in equalization, Senator Cullan, and I got the votes to do it because at that time you could do it with a simple majority on Select File. We put all the money in on equalization by a 22 to 21 vote. Then I realized that I had overclevered myself and I couldn't move the bill which started me along the road that all of you know that we have to come up with a reasonable compromise on this most complex bill, a compromise that is going to do something in terms of rural Nebraska, something that is going to do something in terms of those areas that have a great deal of property per pupil and also something that will do something for those that do not. I sincerely believe that most members of this Legislature, I sincerely believe that most members of this Legislature want to accomplish